

IN HONOR OF THE 236TH BIRTHDAY OF HENRY CLAY

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of what would be the 236th birthday of Henry Clay, who once represented the same district which I am honored to serve today.

As one of Kentucky's most celebrated statesmen, Henry Clay proved that an unwavering dedication to principle and a practical commitment to compromise are not incompatible values. As the "Great Compromiser" himself demonstrated, they are instead the tools of statesmanship. Henry Clay was focused on saving the country, and he resolved to enact substantial solutions, not short-term fixes that merely pushed the problems onto the backs of future generations.

As we consider how to deal with the almost \$17 trillion national debt and as a proud graduate of Henry Clay High School, I call on my colleagues in Congress to remember Henry Clay's resolve because now is a time to come together in the spirit of statesmanship in order to cut spending and balance our budget for the sake of future generations.

SAVE AMERICA COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Throughout the week, we have been hearing from souls who have asked us to have mercy on them and to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Thousands came to petition the government. There were mothers and fathers and children, and I am listening to their cries, as America has listened and as the Statue of Liberty often said: to bring you those who were in need but wanted to serve this Nation.

Today, I introduced Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act, H.R. 1525, to have earned access to citizenship, family reunification, border security, supporting our Border Patrol agents, and a number of items that will bring us together. I hope that we can move this legislation forward.

Let me quickly say that 50 of us signed a letter this week to stop the filibuster on sensible gun legislation. Thank goodness the other body now will move forward to answer the cries of other Americans who have been the victims of gun violence. It is certainly in keeping with the Second Amendment that we have the opportunity to have universal background checks, to rid ourselves of assault weapons and multiple rounds that have killed many in the various mass killings, and to have the ability to help those who have mental health needs.

We can do this as Americans and as Members of Congress. I ask that we

move forward and respond to the American people.

□ 1300

HONORING WILLIAM BOOTH GARDNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 15, last month, William Booth Gardner passed away in his home in Tacoma, Washington, after courageously battling the ravages of Parkinson's disease for about 20 years. Born in 1936, he was 76 years old.

Booth Gardner will be remembered for many things. He will be remembered as Washington State's 19th Governor, having served from 1985 to 1993. He voluntarily retired after two terms, with sky-high job approval ratings, and was subsequently appointed as ambassador to GATT, now known as the World Trade Organization, by his good friend, President Bill Clinton.

He will be remembered as a person of means—some would say considerable means—who began his lifelong pattern of "pay it forward" by volunteering to work with children in the inner city while he was still in college. He even coached Jimi Hendrix in football.

He will be remembered for turning around a scandal-ridden Pierce County government as its first elected county executive and bringing it into the 20th century.

He will be remembered for his impish sense of humor. At the end of the long campaign for the aforementioned county executive position, so familiar was he with his opponent's speech that he delivered it, verbatim, at the last campaign appearance. It was the only time his opponent was left both figuratively and literally speechless.

Booth Gardner will be remembered for leading Washington State through a stunning era of progress. He was a national leader in civil rights. He appointed our State's first African American to the United States Supreme Court. He signed an executive order banning discrimination against gays and lesbians in the State workforce way back in 1995, way before it was the popular thing to do. And at the time he said, The only thing I care about is if they are competent to do the job.

He pushed forward a trainload of environmental protections. For example, he signed an order protecting wetlands, knowing their importance to ensuring clean water, while most of the rest of us were still thinking about wetlands as kind of like large mud puddles.

He was a national education leader. He chaired the Education Commission of the States and fought for standards before that was popular. He expanded choice for students and restored a then-deteriorating higher education funding system.

He leveraged his very considerable private sector experience to be a great manager of State government, implementing—again, before it was popular—commonsense ideas like a rainy-day fund and life-cycle capital budgeting.

But Governor Gardner really shined in health care. When he chaired the National Governors Association, he triggered the national debate on health care and for improving access for low-income families and containing costs for all of us.

Booth Gardner will also be remembered for the Academy Award-nominated documentary that bore his name, Booth Gardner's Last Campaign. It eloquently told the story of his successful advocacy in our State of the Death with Dignity initiative, which was overwhelmingly approved by the voters.

I'm often asked about how and when I first met Booth. It was 40 years ago this year. I was a 20-year-old very lowly clerk in the Washington State House of Representatives. I took paperwork over to the chair of the Senate Education Committee. And to my great surprise, then-State Senator Booth Gardner invited me into his office, never having met me, and simply said, Sit down and tell me about yourself, DENNY. Little did I know that day that, many years later, I would have the unbelievable honor to serve as his chief of staff.

Booth Gardner will be remembered for many things; but mostly I think he will be remembered for governing when government actually worked, and it was due in no small part to his steadfast commitment to civility, respectfulness, and collaboration.

For my own part, I will remember him as boss, mentor, and the truest and dearest of friends.

I now yield to my very good friend, the gentleman from the Seventh Congressional District of Washington State, Dr. McDERMOTT.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Thank you very much, DENNY.

Although it makes me sad for the reason we are speaking here today, I am honored to say a few words about my friend, Governor Booth Gardner.

A lot of people will remember us as adversaries, and that's true for a brief time. We ran against each other for Governor in 1984, and I lost. Now, it might come as a surprise to you, but I didn't particularly like losing. And so after the election, I went off to a place I had up in the San Juan Islands to lick my wounds on Lopez Island. It's exactly there where Booth found me a few days later. He called and said, I'm going to be up in the area. I have a place over on Shaw Island, and I'll come over and see you. And so he drove his boat over and we met.

I had a 40-acre farm, and we walked around the property four times, talking about our visions, about the State, about the election, about the campaign, and where we wanted the State

to go, because Booth and I both loved the State of Washington. By the time we landed on my front doorstep, we'd solved all of Washington's problems.

Booth had a unique characteristic which I think DENNY alluded to, and that is we had a Senator in the State by the name of Warren Magnuson who used to say you can get a lot of things done if you don't care who gets the credit for them. Booth really did believe that.

I'd been working on a basic health plan for the working poor in the State for a number of years before he got to be Governor, and I hadn't been able to get it through the Republican Governor and the Republicans in the legislature. It was my passion project: giving the poor who fell outside of Medicaid but were working an opportunity to buy into the health care system in some way. It was one of those gaps between what the Federal Government did and what the private insurers and the employers were doing, and there were lots of people who were working full time but couldn't get health care.

So we put together this program. He told me that day when we were talking around that he would do everything he could to get it passed, and he kept his word—also unusual in politicians. He put everything he had into it. And when it was finished, he signed it in the middle of my district in a little clinic called Country Doctor in the middle of the city on Capitol Hill.

That bill has helped the working poor of Washington all over the State get medical care and is one of the first public options. It's so good for the State of Washington that Senator CANTWELL took it and put it into the Affordable Care Act. It's now in the blueprint for the safety net that we are developing in this session of Congress.

So Booth lived on beyond his days. His ideas, his willingness to make something happen, carried into the future, and he never walked around telling anybody about it, just did it. That walk with me, a couple of rivals, was really the beginning of it all.

It wasn't only health care. I was the Ways and Means chairman in the Senate, so I had a lot to do with how the budget got put together. But it doesn't matter if you're the Ways and Means chairman or not, if the Governor won't sign it, you can't get it passed. He and I had lots of talks.

He was willing to sign a bill that created the largest settlement for women workers in this country under equal pay for equal work. He signed it after a lawsuit that the State had lost, and I convinced him that we ought to settle the case and let women move ahead in the workplace, and Booth said, Good idea.

□ 1310

Finding a partner like Booth, one who's willing to get past politics and jump in the deep end with you on some issues that weren't exactly sort of centrist—sometimes he took some real

risks—is not a very common thing in politics. But with Booth it was common. The best interests of the State always came first.

Although, occasionally I would go over to his office to find him and they would say, well, he's gone. Well, where is he? Well, he's gone up to coach his girls soccer team in Tacoma.

He had all kinds of interests and all kinds of concerns about kids, and he was willing to put everything he had into it, both in the office and out of the office.

Now, some of his most important work, in my view, and what shows his real character and why I feel bad today, is that when he left the Governor's mansion, he was in apparently good shape, as far as we knew; went off to Geneva to work for the GATT trade organization, and while he was over there, the diagnosis was made of Parkinsonism.

Parkinsonism is a very, very difficult disease to cope with. Your mind is active, everything is active; your body just won't cooperate. And Booth had this disease and struggled with it for 20 years, as you've heard.

Now, death is a frightening thing for all of us to think about. None of us want to think about death. It's not something that's usual table conversation or much of a conversation out here on the floor. But Booth was willing to look at it straight on, and he was willing to talk about it in a way that few other people were.

He wanted to talk about what people's options were; and he saw the suffering, he was going through it himself, and felt that everyone should have the right to choose how they want to end their life. In a final directive, when you go into the hospital, you tell them whether you want them to resuscitate you or not. All of that, he looked at all of that.

And the one thing that was obvious to him was that there comes a time when there is no hope, and there is no question when it's going to happen; and people ought to have the right to make their own decision at that point. It's called death with dignity.

Now, he took that issue on. Here's a man who's struggling with a debilitating disease of his own, no political advantage whatsoever in doing it, none. But he came and spent his time. He was sick; it was hard for him to get up and talk. Sometimes he could only talk a few sentences and then someone else would have to take the podium because he was unable to continue.

There weren't any donors watching. There was no election to be prepared for. It wasn't even an issue that affected him directly, because the requirement of the law was that you had to have two doctors say that you had only 6 months to live, and with Parkinsonism, it's not possible for any physician to say that. So it wasn't something he was doing for himself. It was because he thought it was right for the people of the State of Washington.

You rarely find someone with that ability to get out of their own self-interest. He just believed in it. He believed that it was best for the people of Washington, and he wasn't going to let his sickness or anything else stop him from getting it done, and it passed by about a 54 percent majority.

Booth was a great man. They say people are—they pass twice, once when they die, and once when people stop telling stories about him. The stories will never stop about Booth. I could stand up here and tell them for a long time.

But he was a great man. He was a good Governor, he was a good father, he was a good husband, and he was my partner and my friend, and I'll miss him very much.

Rest in peace, Booth.

I yield now to DOC HASTINGS, from Pasco, Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank my other colleague from Washington (Mr. HECK) for having this Special Order.

I didn't know Governor Gardner that well. We come from different political parties. That's one reason why you don't probably build a close association. But also my last 2 years in the legislature was his first 2 years as Governor, so I don't have the special relationship that Mr. HECK and Mr. McDERMOTT had with him.

But the one characteristic that I did realize with him has been talked about a great deal by my colleagues, and that is that he was a very friendly guy. When Mr. HECK was on the floor just a moment ago saying, as a clerk, you know, he'd call him into his office and treated him like an equal. And I found that characteristic the same in my 2 years when I was in the legislature with Mr. HECK, or with Governor Gardner, even when we were the minority party at that time.

But probably the story that I remember best on a personal note dealt with my daughter. In the Washington Legislature, and I assume other legislatures are the same way, when sine die comes, it is done at precisely the same time. And the doors of the House Chamber are open, the doors of the Senate Chamber are open, and the joint rules require that the gavel drop at the same time. So, you know, it has to be organized and so forth.

And my oldest daughter happened to be a page on that sine die. It was going to be my last sine die, as a matter of fact. So I told her, why don't you go behind the House podium, and you can see how that works. And so she kind of snuck behind there and managed to get that view.

And then after sine die, typically, in the Washington Legislature there are a number of get-togethers. The Governor's Office happens to be on the floor right below the Senate Chamber, and parties are going on and so forth.

So my daughter changed because we were going to drive home, and she put

on a sweatshirt. And the sweatshirt was a remembrance of her going to the State volleyball finals. And so she had a bunch of names, all of her classmates wrote their names on there.

So we walked down to the Governor's Office, and he looked at her and grabbed her and, you know, wanted to know what all the names were, what happened, did they win the championship, I mean, all this sort of stuff, just, I guess, so typical of the type of individual that Governor Gardner was.

So I can't talk about the policies that my previous colleagues spoke about, but I can tell about that one particular issue. And it just turns out that my daughter is here in town this weekend with her three daughters, and we were talking about that last night. And she says, yeah, you know, I do remember that, where he kind of put his arm around me and made me feel very welcome.

So he was a Governor that was forward-looking. I know he's thought about very, very well. My part of the State is a whole lot different than the other part of the State politically; but there's no question that, at least in his second term, he did very, very well in my part of the State. I didn't necessarily like that, but that's part of politics.

So he will be missed; and the editorials around the State that spoke of him, I think, were very true. But just from a standpoint of personality, that's my association with him. And he certainly will be missed.

With that, I'd like to yield to one of the newest colleagues from the State of Washington, the gentleman from the Sixth District, Mr. KILMER.

Mr. KILMER. Thank you. And thank you to all of my colleagues from Washington State who spoke before me. I'm batting clean-up and have the unique position of having neither served with Booth Gardner nor having run against him.

But I actually met him when I was a kid. There's no doubt that Booth Gardner's legacy of accomplishments is impressive, and I could stand here and list them off, both from his role as Governor and for his involvement on trade issues at the Federal level.

But I think it says more about the kind of man Booth Gardner was when we don't just talk about what he accomplished, but we talk about what kind of man he was. As someone who met him as a kid, I was just very much struck by the fact that he was exceedingly civil and very, very kind and seemed to have interest in every person he represented.

Regardless of one's race or religion or orientation or gender or economic status, he seemed to care about every person he represented, including a little kid in Port Angeles, Washington, where I was born and raised.

I met Booth for the first time when I was a kid and he was a candidate and my mom was involved on his campaign.

□ 1320

I was struck by the fact that he seemed to be spending an inordinate amount of time talking to me, even though I wasn't old enough to vote. I met him again in his last year in office. As a high school senior, I received a scholarship to go off to college; and Booth, as Governor of our State at the time, was hosting a luncheon to honor all the scholarship recipients. And I remember he came over to talk to my mom and me and say hello. In that very brief interaction, I was just struck by the extent to which he seemed to care about my mom and about how much he cared about me. As an 18-year-old, I just thought it was really cool that a Governor expressed that level of interest.

Over the years, I'd run into him at political events or often at education-oriented events or events in Pierce County, where he was our first county executive. And our interactions always started in the exact same way. He'd start by saying, How's your mom? Many years later, just this last year when I decided to run for Congress, I was very touched that he came to my kickoff in Tacoma. Parkinson's, by that point, meant that he could not walk, and he struggled very deeply to express himself. I went over to thank him for coming. I knelt down and thanked him, and I could tell he was struggling to say something. It struck me I knew he was going to ask, How's your mom? I thanked him for that, and I told him she was doing just fine.

The other thing I'll say about Booth and his legacy is the legacy he lives behind of his family. His grandson, Jack, actually interned with our campaign. He's an extraordinary young man who spoke very eloquently at the memorial service that was held in honor of Governor Gardner.

So you can look at his legacy of accomplishments when it comes to education or protecting our environment or extending health care services to folks who need it or his work to improve our economy or improve civil rights, or you can look at his extraordinary business legacy as someone who is a leader in our business community. But for me, his legacy is as a guy who truly cared about others. That's how I will remember Booth Gardner.

Today, I will tell all who are listening that my mom is doing well, but she misses Booth Gardner; I miss Booth Gardner; and the people of Washington State miss Booth Gardner.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. A lot has been going on this week and certainly worthy of discussion here at the end of the week.

One of the important topics that has been discussed at both the Senate end and the House end is the issue of immigration—legal immigration and illegal immigration.

Back when my friend STEVE KING and I were meeting with people from the British Government about their handling of immigration, they were offended by the term that STEVE and I were using of "illegal immigration." We were told that that's not appropriate in England. I asked what words they use, and I was told the appropriate terminology is "irregular migrant." I was concerned that sounded too much like some kind of body function. I hated to use that term. Anyway, when people immigrate into a country illegally, it's illegal immigration. And it is a problem.

Anyone that goes down to the end of this Hall just outside these two doors here and heads onto the Senate floor, immediately what is seen above the President of the Senate's chair are the words "e pluribus unum," Latin meaning out of many, one. I have heard a colleague before say it means out of one, many. But we all get mixed up at times. But e pluribus unum means out of many, one.

For those of us that attended public schools when and where I did, we were taught that it was immigration and the process of out of many people becoming one people, becoming Americans, is what made us strong. And the terminology for much of this country's history was that we were a "melting pot." I believed it then, I believe it now, and I believe that that has been one of the great strengths that has made this country the greatest country in the history of mankind—greater than Solomon's Israel—with more liberties, more conveniences, more input into the government and into the way the government works.

My friends on this side of the aisle and everybody I know of agrees we want immigration to continue. Our country allows more immigrants into this country than any other country in the world. No other country comes close to allowing the number of people to immigrate into this country, to come with visas into this country. Nobody comes close. We are an extraordinarily generous country. And for those who have wondered about whether they should be proud of our country in the past, one of the greatest pieces of evidence would probably be the fact that people all over the world, those who hate us, those who admire us—at least a billion, maybe 1.5 billion in estimates have been made—want to come to America. There's no other country in the world that so many people would like to come to and enjoy the freedoms we have.

Unfortunately, there are many who want to come to this country to destroy the freedoms we have because they look at our country and they say, No, unless you have something like sharia law or a country in which you